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Quadra begins stripping operations at Robinson Mine

Quadra Mining began stripping operations at its recently acquired Robinson copper mine near Ely, NV. The Vancouver, British Columbia-based company has contracted Washington Group International to operate the mine (ME, May 2004, p. 10).

Bill Myckatyn, Quadra's chief executive officer, said startup has been going according to schedule. He said the mill is scheduled to begin operation on Oct. 1 of this year. Smaller mining equipment has been mobilized, he said, and the larger, permanent fleet is beginning to arrive at the site.

In the meantime, Quadra

reported that it has begun the formal tendering process for concentrates. "We are currently negotiating smelting and refining terms for production going forward," Myckatyn said. "There is still a concentrate shortage out there."

The Robinson Mine is expected to reach its capacity by the beginning of 2005. It would produce about 60 kt (66,000 st) of copper and 1.4 t (46,000 oz) of gold during its first year.

Quadra Mining was formed in 2003 in response to higher copper prices. The Robinson Mine is the company's first acquisition. The company completed the purchase from BHP Billiton in April 2004. ■

Lisbon Valley to start crushing operations

Constellation Copper expects to begin crushing and processing facility construction Aug. 1 of this year at its Lisbon Valley copper project in Utah. The Denver, CO-based company said the facilities should be completed by August of 2005 and processing should begin in September.

The Lisbon Valley Mine, in San Juan County, is scheduled to produce about 24.5 kt/a (54 million lbs/year) of copper cathode, said Greg Hahn, Constellation Copper's president and chief executive officer. Current production projections have the mine operating for nine years.

Three deposits will be mined by openpit methods at Lisbon Valley. Reserves at the Sentinel, Centennial and GTO deposits currently stand at 204 kt (450 million lbs) of copper. Acid leaching and solvent extraction/electrowinning technology will be used. ■



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Vietnamese

tungsten deposit to be developed

Tiberon Minerals expects to be producing tungsten by 2006 at its Nui Phao deposit in northern Vietnam. The Toronto-based company said production will be about 6 kt/a (6,600 stpy).

The market for tungsten has tightened recently. This is partly because the CanTung Mine in British Columbia closed. It was the only tungsten source in North America. And the Chinese government capped its tungsten concentrate output at 52 kt/a (57,300 stpy). In addition, the U.S. Defense National Stockpile Center suspended its tungsten sales.

Tiberon said it can produce tungsten trioxide for about \$13/t unit (\$12/st). The price for tungsten concentrate is currently between \$55 and \$58/t unit (\$50 and \$53/st). ■

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